

## Message Text

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17

ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 AID-05

CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04

INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 OES-05

SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01 ACDA-10 ERDA-07 AGR-10 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 CEA-01 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CG-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 /183 W

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R 252121Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 970

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0062

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MAC EACHEN DELIVERS  
SPEECH IN HALIFAX ON "LAW OF THE SEA"

1. AT A SPECIAL LUNCHEON OF THE HALIFAX BOARD OF TRADE,  
EXTAFF MINISTER MAC EACHEN ON FEBRUARY 25 DELIVERED A  
SPEECH ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. SPEECH UNUSUALLY WELL  
ATTENDED WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF CANADIAN NAVY PERSONNEL,  
INCLUDING ADMIRAL BOYLE, COMMANDER OF MARITIME COMMAND.

2. MAC EACHEN SAID THAT THE CARACAS LAW OF THE SEA  
MEETING DESCRIBED BY SOME AS A FAILURE BECAUSE NOT A  
SINGLE TEXT APPROVED. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS SIMPLISTIC  
AND SAID, "IT IGNORES THE REAL NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE--  
ITS METHODS OF WORK, ITS OVER-ALL OBJECTIVES AND, IN A  
VERY REAL SENSE, THE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS MADE."

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EM AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BEGINNING ON MARCH 17,

MAC EACHEN SAID THERE WOULD BE OVER 100 MAJOR ITEMS AND SUB-ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND THAT "PACKAGE APPROACH" NECESSARY, SINCE FINAL RESOLUTION OF ONE PARTICULAR ISSUE MUST OF NECESSITY AWAIT PROGRESS ON ALL OTHER ISSUES.

4. MAC EACHEN SAID THAT MOST EVIDENT PROGRESS AT CARACAS HAD BEEN IN ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT, "THAT IS TO SAY THAT WITHIN 200 MILES OF ITS COASTS, A COASTAL STATE WILL HAVE VERY SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS OVER THE MINERAL AND LIVING RESOURCES OF THAT ZONE AND MORE EXTENSIVE RIGHTS THAN IT NOW POSSESSES OVER MARINE POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH". HE SAID THAT "FOR NOVA SCOTIANS AND CANADIANS IN GENERAL, THAT IS A MOST ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT". WITH REGARD TO FISHING, IT MEANS THAT CANADA WILL ACQUIRE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MANAGE ALL LIVING RESOURCES WITHIN 200 MILES FROM ITS SHORES AND ALSO WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESERVE FOR CANADIAN FISHERMEN THAT PORTION OF THE TOTAL RESOURCE WHICH THEY HAVE TO CAPACITY TO CATCH IN ANY GIVEN YEAR. "IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THAT AS OUR CAPACITY INCREASES, SO DOES OUR PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL CATCH. IN PRINCIPLE, THIS PERCENTAGE COULD REACH 100 PERCENT".

5. MAC EACHEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THE IMMEDIATE EXCLUSION OF ALL FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS FROM THE 200 MILE ZONE. "IT DOES MEAN, HOWEVER, CONTROL OF FOREIGN FISHING ON CANADIAN TERMS." HE CONTINUED, "OF COURSE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE INTERNATIONAL BODIES, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES TO EXCHANGE SCIENTIFIC DATA AND CATCH STATISTICS, AS WELL AS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMS. BUT CANADA, WITH RESPECT TO THE RESOURCES OF ITS ZONE, WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD AS TO WHO GETS WHAT, AND WHO DOES WHAT.

6. WITH REGARD TO CONTROLLING THE 200 MILE ZONE, MR MAC EACHEN SAID THAT CANADA IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING HOW TO IMPROVE ITS SURVEILLANCE AND INSPECTION  
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CAPABILITIES. "ALREADY SOME USE HAS BEEN MADE OF OUR NAVAL UNITS ON THE EAST COAST AND CONTRACTS ARE OUT FOR NEW INSPECTION VESSELS".

7. MAC EACHEN THEN SAID THAT THE 200 MILE ZONE DID NOT COMPLETELY COVER THE CANADIAN CASE. HE STATED THAT CANADA MUST "OBTAIN RECOGNITION OF OUR RIGHTS AND NEEDS BEYOND THAT LIMIT, IF WE WANT TO PROTECT ADEQUATELY

OUR NATURAL RESOURCES IN THREE PARTICULAR SITUATIONS.  
A STRICT 200 MILE LIMIT WOULD LEAVE OUT OVER 400,000  
SQUARE MILES OF CONTINENTAL MARGAIN, MOSTLY ON THE EAST  
COAST, 10 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT OF OUR FISH STOCKS,  
ALSO ON THE EAST COAST, AND WOULD LEAVE ALL OF OUR  
SALMON UNPROTECTED DURING THAT PART OF THEIR LIVES  
THEY SPEND IN THE OPEN SEA."

8. MR MAC EACHEN SAID THAT A SECOND MAJOR TREND AT  
THE CONFERENCE HAD EMERGED IN FAVOR OF ESTABLISHING THE  
INTERNATIONAL AREA OF THE OCEANS AS A ZONE RESERVED FOR  
THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND. HE SAYS THIS IS A CONCEPT  
WHICH CANADA WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS. HE REGRETTED THAT  
THE CONFERENCE HAD NOT GOT TO THE POINT OF IMPLEMENTING  
THIS BASIC CONCEPT.

9. THE THIRD MAJOR TREND AT THE CONFERENCE CAN BE,  
HE SAID, EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF A GROWING REALIZATION  
BY ALL STATES THAT THE OCEANS MUST BE MANAGED IN A  
RATIONAL MANNER AS OPPOSED TO THE LAISSEZ-FAIRE  
ATTITUDES OF THE PAST. "WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE TO MAIN-  
TAIN THE OCEAN AS A MAJOR THOROUGHFARE FOR COMMERCE,  
COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL EXCHANGES. THE TIME OF  
UNFETTERED FREEDOM WHICH HAS SO OFTEN LED TO ABUSE  
IS OVER".

10. THE MINISTER SAID THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND  
SOMETHING POSITIVE MUST COME OUT OF THE GENEVA  
CONFERENCE. "WE WILL NOT STAND FOR A SIMPLE REFERRAL  
OF THE ISSUES TO ONE OR MORE SESSIONS UNLESS WE HAVE  
REASON TO BE CONFIDENT IN ANY EARLY SUCCESSFUL  
CONCLUSION." HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING "AS MY COLLEAGUES  
AND I HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY SINCE CARACAS, SHOULD THE  
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CONFERENCE FAIL OR PROCRASTINATE, WE WILL REASSESS  
ALL OPTIONS AND DECIDE HOW BEST WE CAN COPE WITH OUR  
MOST URGENT PROBLEMS--AND THE FISHERIES QUESTION IS  
OBVIOUSLY HIGH ON THE LIST--IN THE LIGHT OF PREVAILING  
CIRCUMSTANCES."

11. FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED IN HOPE THAT DESPITE POSTAL  
DIFFICULTIES IT MAY REACH DEPT AND EMBASSY.  
MANBEY

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## Message Attributes

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